

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are presently pending in the application.

Applicants acknowledge and appreciate the Examiner's allowance of claims 1-8 over the prior art of record. However, in the present *Ex parte Quayle* action, the Examiner has objected to various aspects of the specification, abstract, claims, and drawings. Accordingly, the purpose of the present Amendment is to make various minor corrections and amendments as requested by the Examiner and/or to overcome the objections. These amendments are summarized below using the numbering system of the Examiner in the Office Action.

(a1 and a2) As requested by the Examiner, the amendments to the claims and to the abstract now begin on separate sheets. The status of each claim is indicated parenthetically, and the text of each claim is presented with markings to show current changes. Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the gas to be analyzed comprises water and argon, hydrogen, nitrogen, and/or helium, not a mixture of all these gases. Claim 7 has been amended to recite that the operative parameters further comprise a ratio between an applied electric field and a gas pressure in a separation zone of the IMS machine. This amendment is supported in the specification at least at paragraph [0034]. Additionally, the claims have been amended to delete the reference numbers. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

Additionally, the changes to the abstract are shown in the marked-up abstract. The abstract has been amended to delete "operative" in the phrase "operative steps," to delete the reference numbers, and to define "IMS". No new matter has been added by these amendments.

(b) The Examiner has objected to the drawings filed on July 6, 2004 as being improper. Accordingly, attached are replacement sheets 1 and 2 containing Figs. 1-3 (clearly denoted "Replacement Sheets") and a "New Sheet" 3, containing Fig. 4, a flow chart depicting the method according to the present invention. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

(c) In order to conform to the newly added Fig. 4, a new paragraph has been added to the "Brief Description of the Several Views of the Drawings" section, which contains a brief description of Fig. 4. The punctuation in the preceding paragraphs ([0029] and [0030]) have been corrected accordingly. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

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Reply to Office Action of September 27, 2004

In view of the preceding Amendments and Remarks, which are in full compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.121, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

LUCA PASTERLA

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(Date)

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Enclosures [Replacement Sheets 1 and 2 (Figs. 1-3)]
[New Sheet 3 (Fig. 4)]

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Fig. 1 and a new Fig. 4. These sheets, which include Replacement Sheets 1 and 2 containing Figs. 1-3 and a New Sheet 3 containing Fig. 4, replace the original sheets 1 and 2 containing Figs. 1-3. In Fig. 1, labels have been added which indicate the ion flow direction and the ion driving electric field direction. Additionally, Sheet 1 has been amended to indicate that it is the first sheet out of three. Replacement Sheet 2 has similarly been amended to specify that it is the second sheet out of three. Finally, New Sheet 3 contains Fig. 4, a flow chart depicting the method steps of claim 1.

Attachments: Replacement Sheets 1 and 2 (Figs. 1-3)
New Sheet 3 (Fig. 4)